

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

ITC-01 L-03 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /049 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:WTDIROLL:JH

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:MGOLDMAN

STR:DWHITNACK

ARA/ECP:WBURSON

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R 290223Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 187531

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GT

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES IMPORT DUTY ON HONEY

REF: GUATEMALA 5276

1. CONTRARY TO REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL, THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (STR) HAS NOT RPT NOT SUBMITTED ANY RECOMMENDATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE PENDING REQUEST FOR IMPORT RELIEF ON HONEY.

2. FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ITC) UNDER TITLE II OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 (THE IMPORT RELIEF PROVISION) THE ITC RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. IMPORT DUTY APPLYING TO HONEY BE INCREASED. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED ON AN ITC DETERMINATION THAT SUCH ACTION IS NECESSARY TO REMEDY THREATENED SERIOUS INJURY TO THE DOMESTIC HONEY INDUSTRY WHICH THE ITC FOUND TO EXIST AS A RESULT OF INCREASED IMPORTS. THE ITC HAS PROPOSED THAT UP TO 30 MILLION POUNDS ANNUALLY BE PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR

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AT THE CURRENT TARIFF OF ONE CENT PER POUND. ALL IMPORTS

EXCEEDING THAT AMOUNT IN ANY GIVEN YEAR WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL TARIFF OF 30 PERCENT AD VALOREM DURING FIRST THREE YEARS AFTER RELIEF BECAME EFFECTIVE. DURING

THE FOURTH YEAR THE ADDITIONAL TARIFF WOULD DECREASE TO 20 PERCENT, AND DURING THE FIFTH TO 10 PERCENT. THE RELIEF WOULD TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE FIFTH YEAR.

3. IN 1975, TOTAL UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF HONEY AMOUNTED TO 46 MILLION POUNDS (VALUED AT MORE THAN \$16 MILLION) REPRESENTING 20 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. MEXICO, ARGENTINA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND BRAZIL SUPPLIED 91 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS.

4. AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE HEADED BY STR IS REVIEWING THE ITC REPORT PRIOR TO FORMULATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT MAY ACCEPT, MODIFY OR REJECT THE PROPOSED ITC TARIFF ARRANGEMENT AND HAS 60 DAYS FROM JUNE 29 IN WHICH TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION.

5. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE GATT AND THE OAS THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE VIEWS OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS ON THE ITC REPORT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, HONEY, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE187531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WTDIROLL:JH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-1084
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976078/aaaaagzb.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GUATEMALA 5276
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNITED STATES IMPORT DUTY ON HONEY
TAGS: ETRD, GT, US
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006